

Mansfield Public Schools

Board of Education Update

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Superintendent of Schools

Issue #23

May 2010

Information regarding the current status of the Mansfield Public Schools: items, issues, challenges, and opportunities district staff addressed during the month, as well as upcoming district and school events.

Enrollment

Gr.	GW		SE		VN		MMS		Total
		+/-*		+/-*		+/-*		+/-*	
PK	29	6/3	33	6/3	31	1/1			93
K	29	0/2	33	8/3	53	2/2			115
1	37	3/2	47	4/0	34	1/0			118
2	36	2/0	45	5/1	52	1/3			133
3	31	0/1	50	4/4	50	1/1			131
4	34	1/1	49	1/0	49	2/2	1		133
PK-4									723
5							138	5/2	138
6							150	5/1	150
7							144	3/2	144
8							140	2/1	140
# Boys	109		133		143		295		678
# Girls	87		124		126		278		615
Total	196	12/9	257	28/11	269	8/9	573	15/3	1295

*Entries/Withdrawals

- Home-school year to date total: 8 families with 12 students.

	GW	SE	VN	MMS	District
Immigrant Children*	5	3	1	2	11
ELL**	2	4	3	7	16

*Eligible immigrant children are defined as a) ages 3-21 enrolled full-time in school, b) not born in any state, c) have not been attending 1 or more schools in 1 or more states for more than 3 full academic years.

**English Language Learners

Connecticut Mastery Test – Fourth Generation Results

#/% of students at/above goal – March 2009

Grade	Math	Writing	Reading	Science
3 – 133	113/85.0%	86/72.2%	98/73.7%	-----
4 – 124	100/83.3%	92/74.2%	91/75.8%	-----
5 – 137	97/71.3%	99/72.3%	101/73.7%	110/80.3%
6 – 141	113/80.1%	109/77.9%	120/85.7%	-----
7 – 136	105/78.4%	110/80.9%	116/87.2%	-----
8 – 160	131/81.9%	139/86.9%	138/86.8%	142/88.8%

- Students not reaching goal in one or more areas: (2009-2010 grade)

Gr. 4 – 47/35.3%	Gr. 7 – 44/31.2%
Gr. 5 – 49/39.5%	Gr. 8 – 40/29.2%
Gr. 6 – 63/46.0%	Gr. 9 – 42/26.0%

Budget

- Food Service Comparison:

Sept., 2008-May, 2009		Sept., 2009-May, 2010	
Paid Meals	Total Meals	Paid Meals	Total Meals
80,084	131,428	71,588	131,304

Personnel

	Certified	Non-Certified
Retirements	0	1
Resignations	0	0
Requests for Leave	0	0
New Hires	0	0
Reduction in Force	0	0

- Facilitated TEAM Committee meeting.
- Attended Employee Benefits Quarterly Meeting with Town and Region staff.
- Participated in Personnel Committee meeting with MEA Executive Board.
- Participated in all Search Committees meetings and interviews.

District: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Including Instructional Technology Applications

- Conducted three administrative council meetings.
- Continued Study Island software program for all district grade 3 and 4 students to use both at school and at home.
- Facilitated a year two implementation plan for *Bridges in Mathematics*.
- Facilitated the plan for implementing Houghton Mifflin: *Legacy of Literacy*.
- Implemented a plan for in-class preschool music.
- Implemented district review and use of CBAS (CT Benchmark Assessment System) for grades 3-8 in Math & Reading.
- Initiated MyRTI assessment.
- Facilitated meeting with external Support Services Evaluator.
- Facilitated Summer Curriculum Proposal approval process.

Policies

- Continued to implement MBOE Policies reflecting recent changes in legislature drafted by Shipman & Goodwin.
- Board policy regarding open and transparent government adopted at May 6th Board Meeting.

Building and Grounds

- Continued to implement an alternative work order system.
- Attended MMS Fuel Conversion meetings regarding project implementation.
- Conducted Facilities Management meeting to address current issues.
- Participated in the development of the MBOE School Buildings Project Recommendation to Mansfield Town Council and presentation to the Mansfield Town Council.

Programs

Study Island Through May 29, 2010							
Grade 3				Grade 4			
Math		Reading		Math		Reading	
Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct
50,828	83.5	25,482	68.8	25,906	87.3	20,827	77.2

**Number of questions attempted on grade level*

Security

- Continued the implementation of new required crisis prevention drills for all schools with emergency management officials.
- Facilitated gas leak drill conducted at each school.

Energy

- Implemented school building energy committees.
- Implemented guidelines for after school building use in an effort to reduce energy consumption.
- Reduced hall lighting in hallways in all 4 schools and some classrooms at MMS.
- Monitored use of energy efficient refrigerators to replace classroom use of small refrigerators.
- Initiated monitoring of gas heat & electric energy charges at MMS due to fuel conversion project.

Communication

- Mailed Dorothy Goodwin Bequest funding and non-funding letters to applicants.
- Conducted monthly meetings with bargaining unit leaders.
- Facilitated district Technology Committee meeting via video conference.
- Facilitated Professional Development Committee meeting.
- Attended MMS, Southeast, and Vinton parent organization meetings to discuss School Building Project.
- Facilitated flier and Q-Notify distribution to parents/guardians regarding Community Conversations to be held twice at each school.
- Held monthly meeting with Town Manager.
- Facilitated a discussion between Administrative Council and MBOE regarding 2009-2010 Goals & Objectives.

Professional Development

- Supported grades 5-8 Holistic Writing Scoring sessions.
- Supported grades 2 – 4 Holistic Writing Scoring sessions.
- Supported grades K-4 Math Professional Development.
- Supported grades K-1 Language Arts Professional Development

Technology Administrative Applications

- Continued implementation of HealthOffice Software.
- Continued implementation of automated system for recording substitutes.
- Continued spread sheet submission of language arts assessments.
- Continued conversion to Horizon library system software.
- Supported training and development of PowerSchool software at MMS and Filemaker Pro/EASTCONN RTI software.
- Implemented new PowerSchool cafeteria software in all four schools.
- Continued implementation of MyRTI software program.
- Continued implementation of AlertNow software program for transportation issues.

Other

- Attended MAC (Mansfield Advocates for Children) meeting
- Attended Schools as Clinics Meeting at UCONN.
- Facilitated UCONN Internship meeting for 2010-2011 placements.
- Attended EASTCONN RTTT MOU update and participated in CSDE RTTT conference call.
- Attended TEAM District Facilitator meeting.
- Facilitated Mobile Dentist at 3 schools servicing all 4 schools.
- Attended CT Emergency Management Symposium.
- Attended CABE Legislative Wrap-Up of the 2010 General Assembly.
- Attended CAPSS Technology Committee meeting.
- Attended EASTCONN Regional Staff Development Council meeting.
- Attended Cultural Competence in Education seminar.
- Attended CAPSS Annual Conference.
- Attended EASTCONN Creating a Future conference.
- Attended URSA and Hockanum Superintendents' meetings.
- Explored the feasibility of an online summer program for students in grades three through eight.

Additional information will be provided upon request by calling 429.3350 or by emailing mboesupt@mansfieldct.org.

Mansfield Public Schools Monthly Memorable Moments

Goodwin School

- Goodwin's PTO held its annual Fun Fair on May 22. This year's event included many perennial favorites and also some new features. A magic show, a visit from Jonathan, the UConn husky mascot, and a special landing by Life Star all added to the day. This event is the culmination of months of work by parent volunteers and is the major fundraiser for Goodwin's PTO.
- May and June are favorite months for field trips and this year was no exception. Here's a sampling of some recent field trips. First graders are going to Roger Williams Park and Zoo in early June while second grade culminated their communities unit with a trip to Sturbridge Village and will picnic with their pen pals from other Mansfield schools. Third graders took their annual hike through Mashanoquet Brook State Park and had a chance to see Wolf's Den Cave. Our fourth graders went to Harkness Park as a science enrichment connection on oceans and marine animals. Additional trips to museums and theaters and annual events like bowling and ice skating rounded out the field trip offerings at Goodwin. Field trips provide Goodwin students with hands-on real-world applications of topics they have studied. Most importantly, they're fun!
- Third graders had a wonderful opportunity to be part of the Altrusa project, *Reach for the World*. This literacy project brings together third graders from Goodwin and Sweeney School in Willimantic for the chance to read and share books. Students took trips to each other's school and had a fabulous time at the culminating field trip to UConn where an author visit was arranged. The Altrusa project provided books, book bags and various mementos to make the day even more special.

Southeast School

- "Seeds of Hope" - Our second graders participated in a project known as "Journey North Symbolic Migration". They send handmade paper butterflies to students in Mexico as a symbol of the monarch butterflies leaving the United States in the fall to move into a warmer climate for the winter. Our students sent messages in Spanish asking the students to care for the paper butterflies just as they could care for the real monarchs during the winter months. At this time of the year, when the real monarchs return to us, we anxiously await the return of our paper butterflies. However, this year we learned that devastating floods in Mexico this past February caused the loss of massive numbers of real monarchs as well as our paper butterflies. We know that the monarch butterfly population is in danger so we plan to help change this natural disaster. Soon we will have a garden behind Southeast School that will have a sign that says "Seeds of Hope". Our second graders will plant milkweed which is the only plant that monarchs choose to lay eggs on. It is our hope that the butterflies find our plants. We also plan to spread the word to our Southeast families so they will consider planting milkweed in their gardens too.
- Parents' Hours in May - Joanne Freiberg, a Connecticut State Department of Education Consultant, facilitated an open discussion with our students and parents regarding "Acts of Meanness". Beth Gankofskie, Mansfield's Food Services Director, met with our parents to talk about "Healthy Food Choices". Topics discussed were: Healthy Snacks, Mansfield's Breakfast/Lunch Program, Healthy Celebrations and Healthy Food Fundraisers for 2010-11. Beth and Norma have formed a committee of parents and staff members to discuss food issues in the schools.
- Congratulations to our Food Service Manager Maureen Gagne! Maureen was named the winner of the 2010 School Nutrition Association of CT Louise Sublette Award. This award is the highest honor a food service manager can receive in the School Nutrition Association and represents many months of hard work on her part. Her book of information is exciting to read and reflects some of her creative ideas. It indicates the many wonderful things happening in our district and the effort Maureen is making to create and maintain a healthy, contemporary school food service program for our Southeast students.

Vinton School

- The entire fourth grade at Vinton School recently participated in the production of "The Fighting Frogs of Windham". Students helped to write the play after doing research in their enrichment language arts class where they also explored the craft of playwriting. They learned to create sets, props, costumes and posters. Student musicians worked with Ms. Frascarelli to create a simple orchestra of diverse instruments and to play the songs Ms. Frascarelli wrote specifically for the play. "The Fighting Frogs of Windham" helped to bring a deeper understanding to why there are four bronze frogs guarding a bridge in Willimantic, CT.
- Once again, Vinton's Grade 3 students have chosen to honor their Fathers and Mothers with a special celebration. This year they invited their parents and families to a special evening of music, poetry and memories of Mother's and Father's Day. Reciting Shel Silverstein's *Smart* brought many laughs while *Love you Forever* brought tears to the eyes of both parents and staff. The evening concluded with a slide show featuring activities and special memories of our year together.
- Vinton has its annual end-of-the-year Fun Fest scheduled for June 9, 2010. The theme of this year's event is Olympic Fun Fest. The Vinton students were introduced to the Winter Olympics this year and our Fun Fest is organized to strengthen our school community and provide an understanding of the upcoming 2012 Olympics. There will be activity stations that are challenging and cooperative. Greg Lunski, substitute Physical Education teacher, has organized the outdoor activities and the events of the day. Following the outdoor activities, Grades 1 and 2 will present a talent show from 12:45 - 1:30 p.m. and Grades 3 and 4 will present a talent show from 1:45 - 3:15 p.m. Come join us for a day of fun, challenges and inspiration as we enjoy the special talents of our students.

Mansfield Middle School

- On Tuesday, April 27, 2010, 11 students from MMS went to Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven CT to perform a poem in different languages at the annual COLT (Council of Language Teachers) competition. These students were Jonas Burkhard, Cassidy Cottle, Daniel Duval, Nina Franzen, Jeanne Goffinet, Kent Grisamer, Mikhaila Hillyer, Nicholas Olmo, Joseph Phillips, Alexandra Provas, and Emily Sweeney. They recited poems in the four languages taught at MMS, and Alexandra recited a poem in Modern Greek. Their job was to recite a poem in their language with correct pronunciation. The students are looking forward to presenting their poetry at the Board of Education.
- Five students from Mrs. Burnham's room have the privilege to read to Dante, the therapy dog owned and trained by our school librarian, Mrs. Robinson. They do this as part of a program that helps promote reading skills among children and improve the temperament of dogs. Reading to therapy dogs is very calming to students, mostly by giving students independent time to read at their own comfort levels. Since the program started, students have become more motivated to choose independent reading material. They have learned how to choose a book that might interest someone else, and they have become more fluent readers. Dante, along with Mrs. Robinson, has given these five students the motivation and purpose for becoming more independent readers.
- On Wednesday, April 28th, 2010, four 5th-grade students from Mr. Perkins' enrichment math class, accompanied by Mr. Griffith and Mrs. Dickinson, demonstrated the principles of the "Golden Ratio" to Connecticut's legislators at the 2010 Tech Expo in Hartford. Students demonstrated how *Geometer's Sketchpad 5*, may be used to solve and illustrate complex mathematical concepts. Onlookers remarked at how well the students were able to grasp and explain the concepts to others. The MMS group was greeted by State Representative Denise Merrill, along with many other State and district educators.

Upcoming Events in June:

Please join us at any/all of these events

GW	SE	VN
Town Meeting 6/1/10 1:15pm	Pen Pal Picnic – Gr. 2 Mansfield Hollow Dam 6/2/10 9:15am	Pen Pal Picnic – Gr. 2 Mansfield Hollow Dam 6/2/10 9:15am
Goodwin's Got Talent 6/1/10 6:30pm	Mystic Seaport – Gr. 3 FT 6/4/10	Mohegan Museum – Gr. 4 FT 6/2/10
Pen Pal Picnic – Gr. 2 Mansfield Hollow Dam 6/2/10 9:15am	Poetry Celebration Gr. 4 6/4/10 2:15pm	Young Authors Day 6/3/10
Field Day 6/4/10	Ice Cream Social 6/4/10 6:00pm	PTA Ice Cream Social 6/3/10 6:30pm
Rock Cats Baseball Game 6/6/10 1:35pm	Assembly – Suzuki Tour 6/7/10 9:30am	Baker Woods - K FT 6/4/10
Assembly – Suzuki Tour 6/7/10 1:20pm	PTO Meeting 6/7/10 7:00pm	Assembly – Suzuki Tour 6/7/10 11:00am
WaterSlide 6/11/10	Fun in Your Own Backyard 6/11/10	Olympic Fun Fest and Talent Show 6/9/10
Gr. 4 Class Night 6/11/10 5:30pm	Schoolwide Assembly 6/11/10 3:00pm	Gr. 4 Promotion Ceremony 6/11/10 7:00pm
Gr. 4 Promotion Night 6/16/10 7:00pm	4 th Grade Moving On Ceremony 6/15/10 7:00pm	Kindergarten Picnic Day 6/15/10 7:00pm
MMS		
Beginning Band Concert 6/2/10 6:30pm	Medieval Faire – Gr. 7 6/3/10 3:00pm	Good Decisions Ceremony – Gr. 5 6/4/10 AM
Great East Adjudication Festival 6/4/10	Author's Fair – Gr. 5 6/10/10 PM	Class Night – Gr. 8 6/11/10 5:30pm
Class Picnic – Gr. 8 6/16/10 10:00am	Closing Ceremony – Gr. 8 6/17/10 7:00pm	
District		
MBOE Meeting 6/10/10 7:30pm	Last Day of School – Early Closing 6/18/10	